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'ENVOIOUS EYES' BEING CAST ON HONGKONG

UN COUNCIL TO DEBATE RED COUP

Decisive Vote

Lake Success, Mar. 17.—The United Nations Security Council late today voted to have a full airing of the Czechoslovak Communist coup. The vote was 9 to 2.

Russia's Andrei A. Gromyko fought bitterly to bar debate on Chile's proposal to investigate Russia's role in the Czechoslovak crisis. On the vote, however, all members of the Council but Russia and the Soviet Union supported Council consideration of Chile's complaint. The first test here of the critical Czechoslovak issue came a few hours after President Harry Truman had told Congress Russia was trying to dominate all of Europe.

The Ukraine's delegate objected to the Council inviting the Chilean UN delegate, Hernan Santa Cruz, to the table to present his case. Chile is not a Council member.

The Council quickly overrode the Soviet objections. It voted 9 to 2 for inviting Santa Cruz to make a statement.

Gromyko told the Council that the change in the Prague regime was an internal matter, outside United Nations' jurisdiction. He said any charges that Russia interfered in Czechoslovakia were a libel.

—Associated Press.

Committee Approves ERP

Washington, Mar. 17.—The House Foreign Affairs Committee approved today a US\$5,300,000,000 European recovery programme.

The committee directed that US\$1,000,000,000 of the total be lent to the United States Export-Import Bank.

This means Congress would be asked to appropriate directly only US\$4,300,000,000 for the programme. The total amount is the same as has been approved by the Senate.

It would be for one year of aid. Chairman Charles Eaton, New Jersey Republican, and John M. Vorys, Ohio Republican, told a news conference after a closed door session that decisions were deferred on other foreign aid proposals. These include US\$570,000,000 in economic aid to China and US\$275,000,000 in military aid for Greece and Turkey. —Associated Press.

EDITORIAL

Lord Listowel's Visit

HONGKONG welcomes a unique visitor — His Majesty's Minister of State for Colonial Affairs, The Earl of Listowel, who is the first to hold this new, and to us here, somewhat mysterious office, is better recalled as British Minister to Burma and the leading part he played in helping to bring into effect that country's new constitution. He is also an expert on India, having served as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State in the India Office. He is known also to have been a loyal and active member of the Labour Party since 1937 in which year he became Labour member for East Lewisham on the London County Council. We are, however, rather in the dark as to the nature and scope of his present office, and Hongkong, which naturally is interested in matters pertaining to the Colonial Ministry, will be grateful to Lord Listowel for enlightenment before he leaves us. Hongkong appreciates Lord Listowel's presence, if for no other reason than it indicates the Colony is not entirely forgotten by the Colonial Office (though in the past there have been good reasons for suspecting that the CO has become oblivious to our existence). If therefore, our distinguished visitor can do what the Hongkong Government apparently cannot — shake up some Colonial Office interest in the Colony, he will have fulfilled a very useful mission, and we shall be grateful. Lord Listowel will have ample time to form concrete impressions of Hongkong, and, it is to be hoped, he will be given full opportunity of meeting those whose interest in the welfare of the Colony is as selfless

Conservative Peer Asks For Public Statement On Govt. Policy

London, Mar. 17.—"Envious eyes" were being cast on Hongkong and the residents there were an anxious people at the moment, Lord Mancroft, a Conservative peer, declared today.

Speaking in the debate on defence in the House of Lords, Lord Mancroft asked what Britain's attitude was to the future of Hongkong and Singapore. Surely, he said, the Government had learned a lesson in the last few weeks over the Falkland Islands, British Honduras and other places.

Asking what the British policy and strategy in the Far East would be, Lord Mancroft said very little had been heard about Malaya and Hongkong since the fall of Japan.

"We should state publicly what our policy there is going to be and say we are not going to be chivvied out of Hongkong and that, in fact, we do intend to develop it as a major base," Lord Mancroft declared.

In a brief reference to the Far East in his reply to the debate, Viscount Hall, First Lord of the Admiralty, said: "There is a permanent force in Malaya."

Lord Mancroft said there were two important lessons to be gained from the despatches recently published on the Far East campaign: One—was the difficulty which Britain got into by not being able to make up her mind whether her foreign policy was to be dictated by strategy or vice versa.

The other was the difficulty Britain ran into in trying to make up her mind what was the minimum she could afford for defence and what was the minimum defence required.

TOO MUCH BLUFF

General Percival had summed up the case rightly when he said that in the past Britain had made too much play with a strategy depending on bluff.

We did not bluff our enemies and we did, unfortunately, bluff ourselves," Lord Mancroft declared. During 1942, armchair critics levelled some very harsh abuse, indeed at the commanders in Malaya, Lord Mancroft added.

"We had not seen any withdrawal of those accusations, nor had there been apologies for the many harsh things said at that time. "Mud sticks and I think it is time we began to wipe some of that mud off. Our men did their best out there under appallingly difficult circumstances."

Lord Hall, referring to Commonwealth defence in his reply, said Britain also had responsibility for colonial defence. She had to consider the security of the territories themselves and the extent to which they might be able and willing to play their part in Commonwealth defence.

These matters had been closely examined, both here and in the colonies. In East and West Africa, the Government hoped to establish volunteer military forces and provide for expansion in war.

In the other colonies with small populations, it hoped to establish auxiliary forces. There was, he said, a permanent naval force in Malaya.

Earlier, Lord Nathan, the Minister for Civil Aviation, said important changes had been made in planning the organisation of the Government to secure closer integration of civil and military planning. Britain, he said, had been created—Scientific Adviser to the Home Office. This would be filled by the director of scientific research to the Ministry of Supply, who is a radar expert. He would serve as the link between the planning staff and the scientists engaged on research for various kinds connected with defence problems. —Reuter.

MALAYAN QUESTIONS

London, Mar. 17.—General Percival's criticism of Malayan Chinese in his war dispatch were referred to at question time in the House of Commons today.

Mr Leonard Gammans, Conservative, asked what action the Colonial Secretary proposed to take on the protests made to the British Government by prominent Singapore Chinese against General Percival's despatches on the fall of Singapore.

Mr Arthur Creech Jones, the Colonial Secretary, replied: "I understand that the Secretary of War has just received a communication from the Chairman of the South-East Asia Federation of China Relief Fund Committees on the subject of criticisms of Malayan Chinese contained in General Percival's despatch."

"This communication is now under consideration. I must point out, however, that the views expressed in General Percival's despatch are the personal opinions of the author. The Governor of Singapore paid a public tribute to the courage and bearing of Chinese during the hostilities and later, during the Japanese occupation, when he assumed that office."

SLAVE LABOUR?

Mr William Teeling, Conservative, asked whether the Minister had any statement to make on the conviction of two hand day-labourers in the district court at Kuching, Sarawak, for failing to comply with an order to assist in transporting a district officer's baggage, from Kampong Begu to Kampong Hungu, during that officer's visit to those kampongs.

He asked how much they were fined.

After Mr Creech Jones had said he was making inquiries of the Governor, Mr Teeling asked whether there was, in fact, any compulsory slave labour in Sarawak. Mr Creech Jones said he was not aware of any compulsory labour or anything of the kind but there were certain provisions under the Forced Labour Convention. He would look into the matter.

Mr Teeling: "Will you also find out whether these people are supporters of the Brooke family?"

Mr Creech Jones: "Yes."

PAY PARITY PROMISED
Mr Frederick Skinnard, Labour, asked whether in connection with the report of the Trustees' Commission, the Government of

Malaya would apply the principle of parity of pay and status as between teachers of equal qualifications, whether recruited locally or in Great Britain.

Mr Creech Jones replied: "Yes sir. The principle of parity of basic pay and status between officers of equal qualification, irrespective of race or domicile, will be applied throughout the Malayan public service."

"Expropriation pay, in addition to basic pay, will be proposed in appropriate cases on the lines of the Trustee's report and in accordance with the principles of the White Paper, Colonial No. 107."

Air Commodore Harvey, Conservative, asserting that all Chinese schools in Kelantan and Trengganu, Malaya, were being Communally-administered, asked what the Minister proposed to do in the matter.

Mr Creech Jones replied: "These schools are subject to Government inspection and recent visits have disclosed no indication of any political activity." —Reuter.

Another New Military Pact

London, Mar. 17.—Britain and Transjordan have pledged mutual military aid in war and have agreed on the right to bring troops to each other's territory if war comes.

Under the terms of a military annex to the new Anglo-Transjordan treaty, the text of which was published today, Britain's almost unrestricted right under the 1940 treaty to station troops in Transjordan has been dropped, but until the two countries agree that the state of world security renders such a measure unnecessary, Transjordan invites Britain to maintain units of the Royal Air Force at Amman and Mafraq airfields.

The treaty fully meets the claims of Transjordan sovereignty to meet which the revision of the old treaty was undertaken on Transjordan initiative. —Reuter.

Honduras Dispute: U.S. Intervenes

Belize, Mar. 17.—The United States has intervened in the territorial dispute between Guatemala and the United Kingdom over British Honduras, it was reported authoritatively here today.

The United States Ambassador to Guatemala, on instructions from Washington, is understood to have sought and to have received Guatemalan Foreign Office assurances that there will be no aggressive action against the colony.

On that basis, it was said, the cruiser Sheffield was withdrawn. —Reuter.

FOUR INCHES OF WATER
ARE ENOUGH FOR A BATH
— YOU CAN —
SAVE ALL THE WATER

Lord Listowel Arrives



Admiral's Diary Will Be Censored

Malayan Campaign Statement

London, Mar. 17.—The Admiralty has told Admiral Sir Geoffrey Layton, who commanded the British naval forces in the Malayan campaign, that it reserves the right to censor anything he writes on the battle for Malaya.

The admiral, who told a reporter tonight that last week he had asked for permission to publish his war diary, added: "It means that if I publish anything on my own, I should be caught under the Official Secrets Act. I cannot do any more at present."

An Admiralty spokesman in the House of Commons today reiterated the Admiralty's refusal to publish the contemporary war diary of Admiral Sir Geoffrey Layton, who commanded the British naval forces in the Malayan campaign, but said the admiral could ask for permission to publish his own review of the events.

M.P.'S QUESTIONS

The spokesman, who recalled that the admiral was now a private person, said the Admiralty would have to consider any such application from him.

A Conservative Member, Captain A. Marsden, had asked whether Admiral Layton's war diary would be published and whether it would be made available to naval correspondents and historians.

He wanted to know why these notes could not be published.

The Admiralty spokesman, Mr John Dugdale, the Financial Secretary of the Admiralty, said at the time Admiral Layton wrote his notes, the commanders associated with him were prisoners. They did not write their reports until some time later. —Reuter.

SNIPERS BLOW UP LORRY

10 Arabs Killed

Jerusalem, Mar. 17.—An explosive-laden Arab lorry was blown up by Jewish snipers on the Haifa-Accra road today, killing 10 Arabs and injuring seven.

The blast injured 39 Jews and blew over a passing Army lorry, injuring two British soldiers.

BRITAIN BLAMED

The Jewish Agency's three-man committee of inquiry today blamed Britain for the Ben Yehuda Street explosion in Jerusalem on February 22, in which more than 50 people were killed and 60 wounded.

The persons seen in the armoured car and trucks which carried out the assault were British, and there was no evidence that any other persons there were Arabs, the committee's report said.

It established that the car which led the explosive-laden trucks into Ben Yehuda Street was a police armoured car, it added. The car had been stolen by British police on February 14, and there appeared to be negligence on the part of the British police authorities in failing to give warning until after the disaster of the disappearance of the car, the report asserted.

Had the population been warned, the armoured car and trucks would probably not have been allowed to enter Jerusalem.

The inquiry, conducted by three lawyers, was ordered by the Jewish Agency and the Jewish National Council.

HAGANAH REPORT

Between 5,000 and 6,000 Syrian, Iraqi and Lebanese volunteers for the Arab army had entered Palestine, a Jewish Agency spokesman said today.

Quoting Haganah—the Jewish defence organisation—reports, he said there were 2,500 Syrians, 2,500 Iraqis, several hundred Lebanese and also 174 Egyptian Army officers and men, and 150 Yugoslavs in the Arab camp.

Most of the Arab commanders in the Holy Land were not Palestinians, he said. —Reuter.

ARAB'S WARNING

Jerusalem, Mar. 17.—Abdul Kader Hussain, commander of the Arab Palestinian Army, issued a warning Wednesday that the Hebrew University and the Hadassah Hospital on Mount Scopus might be captured or destroyed by Arabs if Jews continued to use them as bases for attacks.

Hussain, a cousin of the Mufti of Jerusalem, told The Palestine Post that Jews were using both institutions as bases for "murder, bloodshed and aggression" with the deliberate intent of provoking the Arabs into an attack. The Jews say they are only defending the University and the hospital. —Associated Press.

VALUABLE CARGO

Shanghai, Mar. 18.—The China Merchants Steam Navigation Company vessel, Chihsin, left for the South Sea yesterday with 1,000 tons of cotton yarn and cloth and over 1,000 tons of miscellaneous goods aboard.

The vessel plans to call at Bangkok and Singapore, via Hongkong. The cargo was sent by the State-operated China Textile Industries. —Reuter.

Woman Prosecutor In Tokyo



Mrs Tom Lambert, former Spokane, Wash., and San Francisco lawyer, makes her first official appearance as one of the prosecutors of Japanese in the Tokyo war crimes trials. Mrs Lambert is the wife of an Associated Press staff member in Tokyo. — AP Wirephoto.

TO-DAY
ONLY

QUEEN'S

at 2.30, 5.15,
7.15 & 9.15 p.m.STRANGE! SINISTER!
Her secret... Her story!LARAIN DAY • BRIAN AHERNE
ROBERT MITCHUM • GENE RAYMOND

The Locket

with BRADY BOWETT • RICARDO CORTES • HENRY STEPHENSON
Produced by BOB CLARK • Screened by JOHN CLARK • Music by NORMAN CRASNA

QUEEN'S & ALHAMBRA

— OPENING TO-MORROW —

M-G-M'S
ADVENTURE
DRAMA IN
ACTION COLOR!

GALLANT BESS

MARSHALL THOMPSON • GEORGE TOBIAS

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ADVANCE BOOKING OFFICE—ST. FRANCIS HOTEL
BOOKING HOURS: 11.00 A.M. TO 5.30 P.M. DAILY

— COMMENCING TO-DAY —

4 SHOWS AT 2.30, 5.10, 7.15 & 9.15 P.M.

IF SHE WERE YOURS COULD YOU FORGIVE?

ANN SHERIDAN
LEW AYRES
ZACHARY SCOTT

THE UNFAITHFUL

IT'S SO EASY TO CRY SHAME!

WARNER SENSATION! EVE ARDEN • STEVEN DEAN • VINCENT SHERMAN • JERRY WALK

ALHAMBRA THEATRE

TO-DAY ONLY AT 2.30, 5.20, 7.20 & 9.20 P.M.

I AIN'T GOT NO BODY

JEFFREY LYNN • JANE WYMAN

The BODY DISAPPEARS

and the fun begins!

EDWARD EVERETT HORTON • HERBERT ANDERSON • Directed by D. ROSS LEDERMAN
Original Screen Play by Scott Darling and Ernie Lazore • A Warner Bros.-First National Picture

OPENS TO-MORROW! "GALLANT BESS"
M-G-M's Color Spectacle

SHOWING MAJESTIC AT 2.30, 5.20,
TO-DAY 7.20 & 9.20 p.m.THE LOVE STORY THAT WILL LIVE WITH
YOU TO-DAY—TO-MORROW AND FOREVER!
Claudette COLBERT • Orson WELLES • George BRENTin "TO-MORROW IS FOREVER"
Released by RKO RADIO Pictures
COMMENCING FRIDAY
M-G-M's Now, Unusual Technicolor Musical
"THE UNFINISHED DANCE"
Starring Margaret O'BRIEN • Cyd CHARISSE

BY THE

WAY

by Beachcomber

THE dark eyes of the three Persians were round with wonder as they listened to Mr. Colin Velvete telling them about the ballet in which he hoped they would appear.

He began, "Elcheu—" and just checked himself in time. "The scene," he said, "is a forest glade, the queen of the butterflies lies asleep. Enter a hunter—" "Tilly-ho!" cried Ashura. "Tintavy!" cried Kazbulah. "Foxy, foxy!" cried Rizamughah. They were all anxious to show that they understood. "The hunter," proceeded Velvete, "sees the sleeping queen and adjusts his bow and arrow." The Persians exchanged incredulous grins. "It is fun," said Ashura, "lot of fun! This hunter is stalking booterflies and moths with his bowarrow, ho yes, bravo him!"

Echulath

"JUST as he is about to shoot," continued the choreographer, "the Flower Chorus enters." The Persians gaped. "They surround the queen, protecting her, and the hunter cannot shoot." "Hath he no dogs?" asked Kazbulah, "where-with to hunt this booterfly?" "No, no dogs," said Velvete patiently. "The Flower Valse is played—you know, Tchnakovsky." "We not know Chopovsky," said Rizamughah sulkily. "The Flower Valse is played," persisted Velvete, "and here I thought you three could form a colourful background of scenery, ex-chulath." The faint word! How the three cheered, and shouted "Manure, ho yes!" until a high executive official poked his head in and asked if there were a Farmers' Convention in progress.

Obviously

I was told by a talkative rabbit That the conjurer's trick would fall flat, If he carried, in place of the top-ner, A little round uickerwork hat.

In passing

I HAVE been reading an article by one of those quaint, old-fashioned "progressives," who think that bigger aircraft will solve the world's problems. But this enthusiast goes further. He thinks that not only must aircraft be bigger, but they must go higher and faster, just as they did in those exciting boys' stories 20 years ago—in the days before we had learned by personal experience all the benefits to civilisation of the "conquest of the air."

GRILLING THE COOK.... By C.V.R. Thompson

NEW YORK.

FROM now on bureaucrats in Washington's Agriculture Department will tell American housewives how to do their jobs.

They will not only advise them what food to buy but they will tell them how much of the family budget they should spend on food.

Said the spokesman who, for obvious reasons, chose anonymity: "What we need is a little more business administration in the kitchen."

GOOD INTENTIONS lie behind this nonsense, of course. For Washington does not believe all these lower prices will stick. Particularly meat prices.

ONE HOUSEWIFE, 22-year-old Mrs. Ruth Berber, of Chicago, is using the Gandhi principle in a one-woman fight to bring prices down still more. Nothing but bread and milk for her for three weeks.

WHAT ARE the young men and women of England saying? Is there a future Cabinet Minister now making his presence felt in local affairs, in local discussion groups, in university debates, in "mock parliaments"?

Warwick Charlton recently set out on a tour of inquiry.

He will report and assess meetings at which young men and women hold forth, the young men and women who worked either in uniform or at the bench during the war and who are now training themselves for high responsibilities.

He will be on the look-out for talent, for the right man or the right woman—the people with a future. He will report their views and say what he thinks of them. They can be Tory, Liberal, Socialist, Communist, or any other ist—the search is for the good, the strong, the able. Here is his first report.

UP FOR INQUIRY in Congress— an army order for 101,172 special chairs for officers.

HOLLYWOOD telephone directory has twice the number of psycho-analysts it had last year.

IT IS TYPICAL of America that America's richest young man, Winthrop Rockefeller, has a confidant for a father-in-law. And it is also typical that coal miner to say of his daughter's marriage into the Rockefeller clan, "Too much money is good for Eva, but not good for me."

IRVING BERLIN has just finished a new song, called "It's Lonely in the White House."...WALTER WINCHELL suggests that Orville Wright's Kitty Hawk—first plane to fly—should be piloted home to U.S. from London's Science Museum by Lady Aslor.

WITH ITS LOVE for machinery, America has produced a machine to interview job applicants. You still answer questions from your prospective boss, but it is the machine, and not the boss, which decides your fate.

It records and analyses the time you take to answer the questions. And from that it can be deduced whether you are dynamic or slipshod. It also shows up any inclinations to interrupt, argue, dominate, or submit.

BARBARA CARTLAND, the British novelist, is engaged in a whirlwind campaign to persuade New York publishers to buy her 27 novels because "Britain needs the dollars and I need the money."

MICKEY ROONEY's ego, bruised by his visit to Britain, is restored by the reviews of his new film, "Killer McCoy."

ARTIFICIAL GOLD has been made at an atomic energy factory in Hanford, Washington. But this offers no cheap way to build up gold reserves. It can be made only out of platinum, which is more costly than gold.

TO AMERICANS with German names, a New York food parcels firm is sending postcards guaranteeing delivery of coal briquettes by air express to any zone of Germany, including the

Russian. Cost for one ton, £30. Ordinary cost, £2 6s.

BRITAIN IS FINISHED TALK is cropping up again. Walter Lippmann, the columnist, has started it. He says that even with full Marshall plan aid, "the great liquidation" of the British Empire cannot be averted. But he adds that if any people can meet this test the British people will meet it.

HENRY WALLACE will announce the election programme by which he seeks the Presidency as champion of the common man from a Miami suite costing £25 a day. BOB FELLER, top-ranking baseball pitcher, will get £10 for every ball he pitches this season.

THE WORD has gone out to all unions that it would be better not to strike for this year's pay increase demands or they will soon be fighting against wage cuts instead of for increases.

HOW HOLLYWOOD makes a film from a best seller, according to comedian Henry Morgan: It takes a good book about a bad girl, and turns it into a bad film about a good girl.

I'M LOOKING FOR MEN WHO WILL BE FAMOUS IN 1958

By Warwick Charlton

OXFORD.

I HAVE been visiting the caplets of the Oxford Union. The Oxford of the war was ended, and some hundreds of young men are entering the world outside and striving to make a place for themselves.

But here they seem to have no fire in them. And why not? What is the matter with our political parties and their leaders? Cannot the Socialists, Tories, Liberals or even the Communists spark up this magnificent tinder?

I chose to attend the Oxford Union because this society has weaned many of the great men of Britain. On the debating floor of the Union they had a trial center, and those who showed up well usually became famous men.

The Union, therefore, should give you a preview of tomorrow, but frankly, from what I have seen here, tomorrow looks like being pretty dull.

This may be because the average age of the university student is four years higher than it used to be before the war. Ninety percent of them have returned from the wars. But you would expect that the experience of war would have sharpened their minds and their tongues. Apparently it has not.

I am not the only one who deplores their lack of spirit. Some of the leading members of the society told me that though there was something lacking they did not know what it was.

Mr. John Owen, reporter on the Oxford Mail who has attended Union debates for 20 years, told me: "The young men who are up now seem to be debating the idea of a university education. There was a time when they came up here to learn how to live, but now they seem to regard this solely as a place to get qualifications to earn a living. In all my 20 years I have never known such a spiritless lot. I would not give fourpence for any of them."

sure, look to see if there is a Communist under their beds before they can sleep at night. We need more men prepared to give their own insignificant lives for the good of the nation. What is this folly of thinking that progress is the prerogative of the few who are politically enlightened?"

—And others

THERE are other young men I met who give some hope for the future. Tony Crosland for instance the 26-year-old ex-parachute officer, is also a former president of the Union.

The society's officers usually wear tails but Crosland did not "on principle."

He is a doctrinaire Socialist, and it is certain he will soon be sitting in the House of Commons. He was by far the best speaker I listened to but he would do better if he did not revel so much in getting laughs.

He says: "The Union is Tory because the young men who belong to it do not see the two million unemployed before the war, depressed areas and Munich."

"When the country voted the Labour Government in they remembered these things, and it was these big issues that caused them to vote the way they did."

This House is not a mirror of what the country outside thinks. When Harold Macmillan came here and said that the Labour Party had no overall plan and the Conservatives had one, his remarks were taken seriously instead of being laughed at.

There are three other young men I met who seemed to me to have vitality and ideas. I think you will hear more of them, so you might as well meet them now.

Rudi Weisweller, 24-year-old Austrian, fled with his parents from Nazi persecution in 1938. He says: "I must pay tribute to the greatness of this democracy. For two years as an enemy alien I worked in a munitions factory and then, still an enemy alien, I came to Oxford, and was elected an officer of the Union while the war was still on."

"In this country there is truly free discussion and a man is treated individually on his own merits. When I go back to Austria I will have something to say about that."

Remember also the name of Anthony Wedgwood Benn, a young Socialist who served in the Fleet Air Arm and worked at Transport House during the election. He is aged 22 and determined on a political career.

He says of himself, "But first I must get rid of the stigma of being intellectual. The world wants practical men."

Dispiriting

THERE you have some young men who should win fame by 1958. But what of the rest?

I did not meet them all, but enough of them. They sat, sheep-like, listening to the speeches of the bright young men.

Perhaps the men back from the wars left their vitality behind them. Perhaps they have had it expended and drained out of them. I hope in time that the vitality will return, otherwise we are going to get public men as fat and uninteresting as the lemonade one of them offered to me when all the speaking was over.

[Another article by Warwick Charlton tomorrow]

PARIS FINDS HOPE WRITTEN ON THE SAUCER

By SAM WHITE

WITH the approaching spring in Paris come a variety of other items of good news—like the reappearance of price-tagged saucers in the cafes, for example.

Every peace-time visitor remembers the piles of saucers he accumulated on his cafe table as he sat drinking. They served the double purpose of indicating the number of drinks consumed and the price of each.

For the last few years, however, with prices mounting almost daily, cafe proprietors grew tired of obliterating old prices and repainting new ones on their saucers, and the practice gradually stopped.

Now, almost as though the Government had decreed the contrary, saucers are suddenly back in circulation. Does that mean a return of confidence and a new faith in the stability of prices? With almost superstitious awe Parisians are saying that it does.

End of a gold rush

In any case, there are several more substantial pointers to better times than the mere reappearance of the saucers. From country districts come reports that following one of the mildest winters of the century, this year's harvest will be a bumper one.

For the first time in years peasants are expressing fears that their golden era of super-high prices may at last be ending.

Heartening news comes too from Washington—that France is to get the lion's share of U.S. interim aid, and all before March 31. This might seem to indicate that a big Communist

Party can be a national asset in some ways.

Finally, to round off the rosy prospects comes official assurance that only a major social upheaval or failure of Marshall aid can prevent full French recovery by 1949.

Coal, a major problem ever since the war, is now so plentiful that France has more of it than she can transport. This, combined with rising production, leads economists to conclude that industrial recovery can be expected in the next few months.

On the debit side

Spring in Paris this year will be marred, however, by the disappearance of several famous boulevard cafes. The Champs Elysees is especially hard hit, and probably five of its biggest and most famous cafes will shut down in the next few weeks.

Britons who consider their own always mismanaged might like to know what a really sick aircraft industry looks like.

A report just issued on France's nationalised aircraft industry reveals that of five types produced since the war one was found unsuitable for military use, a second was grounded for elaborate modifications and revision, a third because of defects of construction, a fourth was found unusable, and a fifth has had so many accidents that nobody now will fly it.

In addition, during the reign of a Communist Air Minister, the number of employees was almost doubled in an effort to ensure a loyal Communist following among aircraft workers.

The industry, however, did make a "profit." As the Gov-

PARIS PAVEMENT
Aspirite for two.

ernment were both manufacturer and buyer, prices were raised to ensure satisfactory book results.

Police and gangsters are engaging in an arms race—with the latter maintaining a comfortable and increasing lead. A series of daylight hold-ups has revealed that gangsters are now so well armed that few policemen dare draw fire from them.

In addition, while petrol rationing has reduced the police to patrolling on bicycles, the gangsters' career has been in high gear. American cars with an apparently unlimited supply of petrol.

"Chicago-sur-Seine" is the name several French newspapers have given to Paris in their campaigns for a better-equipped police force.

And to close—

Checking over my files, I find that out of every three stories sent from Paris last year carried some reference to the black market. What did foreign correspondents write about before the war?

French fashion writers are asking: "Avez-vous le noulouquet?" Which, of course, is French for "Have you the New Look?"

Many French directors and film stars, hard-hit by the crisis in the French film industry, are emigrating to Britain. Georges Guetary has signed contracts for three films following his success in "Bless the Bride," and Simone Simon is leaving for London shortly.

NANCY Unbecoming a Man of His Position

SLUGGO'S SO PROUD SINCE HE'S IN THE ADVERTISING BUSINESS



OH, SLUGGO—I JUST SIGNED UP A NEW CLIENT



DIS IS HOOMILIATIN'



Don't wait till you see this!



START USING

Fitch's

DANDRUFF REMOVER

SHAMPOO

&

QUINOL

SOLE AGENTS

NAN KANG CO. HONG KONG

Women

BEAUTY ARTS

By LOIS LEEDS



Posed for Lois Leeds.

There are newer ways to wear a scarf than on your head, says Lois Leeds.

IT'S NEW!

Lipsticks in sets of three are smartest. You can carry them in your handbag but you must have the same shades on your dressing table, to apply at home.

Plastic eyeglass frames for evening wear have a design of Black lace—a pretty idea! You can "tie them up" with a Black lace evening dress or Black lace hairbows.

Hormone creams are gaining in favour and are giving real results on mature or overly-dry skins.

Hairbows of crisp ribbon are a new headline fashion now.

Plaid over-the-shoulder bags, plus a plaid belt, are new!

The cosmetic stylists are taking their fall makeup colours from the tapestries of long ago.

Three odd ribbons are worn together with tailored blouses, like this. An inch-wide Black ribbon, a wider Chartreuse ribbon and a

wider plaid or striped one. Anything goes, use your own ideas!

Scarves are the mad rage! Make them into aprons over Black basic dresses, not for work, but for High Style! And for blouses, hat covers, waistline decorations. A long, gay scarf is pulled through the button-hole of a sports jacket and allowed to wave in the breeze.

Use your own creative ideas and have new touches of colour. And be sure to wear your pearls over a high, around-the-throat scarf!

ILLUSION STRIPES



A "two-piece" effect is created by a jacket front attached to the rest of this boldly-striped Reville model, whose wide sleeves are emphasized by the "cape" shoulder line.

Minute Makeup
by GABRIELLE



Here's an old, but ever new beauty tip. Hair oily? Just won't look pretty? So little time? But, what's this?—A Minute Shampoo! Take a few table-spoonfuls of oat meal from the kitchen shelf. Work it into the scalp and hair. Quickly brush it through your hair. The oatmeal absorbs the excess oil. Your hair is now manageable.

Your Robot Valet Is No Longer A Dream

IT is 7 a.m. The alarm clock shrills. You wake up, and turning to Robert the Robot say: "Robert! Get me a nice cup of tea."

VERDICT ON A JUDGE:

Full of surprises



VISCOUNT SANKEY, Lord Chancellor from 1920 to 1935, who died at his Kensington home last month, aged 81, will be remembered as the judge who did what was NOT expected of him.

Lloyd George made him chairman of the Coal Commission in 1919. The politics of Mr Justice Sankey, as he then was, were a mystery; but it was believed he leaned towards Conservatism.

Lloyd George was shocked when he proposed the nationalisation of coal royalties. His proposals were shelved. He was noted as:—

A WIT.—He once prepared a joke carefully, but when he fired it at a barrister in court it was mistaken for a point of order, and he was solemnly told that it had been overruled by the Court of Appeal.

A WALKER.—He wore a pedometer, and never took a taxi until he had walked five miles each day. In going to country assizes he would leave his train at a nearby station and walked in to town.

A POOR SCHOLAR, according to his headmaster. His Latin was described as "inaccurate," his English essays "undistinguished," his divinity "poor." He added: "The truth was always to be found at the bottom of the well and the reports ended with the words, 'Progress and conduct satisfactory'."

A CHURCHMAN.—and once chided a cursing traveller on a slow train, "If you stop cursing and start praying we may get there sooner."

EVEN THE MAID IS 'EXPORT'

Britain's latest dollar-earning export walked aboard a Transatlantic plane recently. And Mr Douglas Compton-James, 50-year-old retired Inland Revenue official, chalked up the first instalment of the 400 dollars a month he is earning by exporting domestic servants.

Mr Compton-James, at his home in West-street, Axminster, Devon, said: "Hundreds of Americans and Canadians want servants, and there are plenty of girls here willing to go. By advertising and sifting through the applications I find the right girl—or man."

First to go were 22-year-old Alexandrina Cay and her mother, of Telford-street, Inverness, who will become maid and cook in the kitchen of a Toronto barrister. They will cost him £87 each—£77 fare and £10 in dollars search charge.

18 to 50

Applicants must be British or Irish, aged between 18 and 50, medically fit—and, in most cases, able to drive a car. They must give five years' references and photographs.

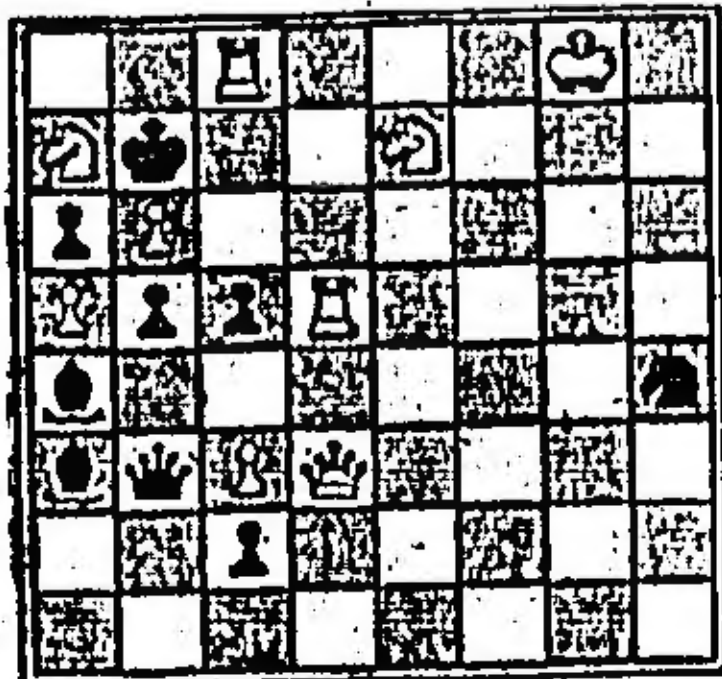
In a signed contract, 12 months' employment is guaranteed with pay ranging from £5 a week all found for a maid in the U.S., to £12 a week—enough to run a car—for a good cook.

Three out of four applications say, 'She must be Scots—they are hard workers.' One in 20 wants an Irish, or Welsh maid.

At present only ten servants a month are going. To assist him in sifting with letters in eight languages—he also imports maids from the Continent—Mr Compton-James is helped by his wife, son-in-law, and two clerks.

CHESS PROBLEM

By A. K. ELWORTHY
Black, 9 pieces.



White, 9 pieces.

White to play and mate in two.

Solution to yesterday's problem:

1. Q—B5, any; 2. Q—R, or K2 (ch, or d4 ch) mates.

Robert, who has been sleeping in his bedside armchair, gets up without a word of complaint, trots off to the kitchen, brews a nice cup of tea and hands it to you on a tray.

After that, Robert will do practically any household chore you require.

He will turn on your bath, wash up the dishes, and sweep out the sitting-room. He will even put out the cat at night.

Put him in an office and he will work out intricate calculations faster than a chartered accountant. Put him in a factory and he will sort out different-shaped mechanical parts at lightning speed.

Not A Dream

ROBERT the Robot is no Welshman dream of thousands of years hence.

He is an electronic machine with an almost human "brain," who, if the demand existed, scientists had the spare time, and money were available to manufacture him, could be produced within two years.

So says Dr Grey Walter, 39-year-old director of physiological research at Burdon Neurological Institute, Bristol, who has already made a toy tortoise with 10 times the intelligence of the creature that crawls around your back garden.

Dr Walter's tortoise, which works with the aid of miniature radio valves, microphones, photo-electric cells, temperature-recording instruments and a tiny motor, can, at the sound of the human voice, sit up and beg.

Within Two Years

SAID Dr Grey Walter: "There would be little difficulty in producing the first robot model within two years."

"It would probably cost several thousand pounds to make, and would take up all the working time of several development engineers. Production of all inventions is largely a question of demand and economics. The steam engine, for instance, might have been developed hundreds of years before it was if the demand had existed. It was not until slave labour became too expensive that the mechanical engine was invented to replace it."

"Radars would not have become operative for several generations if the demand for its invention had not become so urgent during the war. At that time, also, the cost of its production did not count."

Would Enjoy Joke

"THE robot, which like the 'tortoise', would control its own actions in answer to the human voice, could be made in the outward form of a human being, if required, and could be made to perform almost any action which can be carried out by the average, simple-minded person."

"It could also act as a super-efficient shorthand typist, or as a factory worker performing scores of mechanical tasks."

"It could even appreciate a simple joke. It would laugh at a man slipping on a banana skin; but it would not see the subtlety of a 'shaggy dog' story."

"The electronic robot can be made all right. But is there the demand for it—and where is the money?"

DUMB BELLS



LESSON HAND

McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

Better Your Game With Safety Plays

By WILLIAM E. MCKENNEY

TODAY'S HAND is scheduled as a Lesson hand. I suggest that you clip it. It is a series of safety plays which you should memorize. On my radio programme recently Oswald Jacoby turned a safety play as an insurance play. It is certain that if you will memorize the safety plays and use them you will be classed as an expert among your friends.

Of course I cannot give you all of the safety plays in one article, nor a complete explanation of each play, but you will see the logic of them. From next week, we will have an article embodying each.

A K 9 3 2 opposite Q 8 5 4—Lead to the queen to protect against losing to the J 10 7 6 on your right.

A Q 10 4 3 2 opposite 6 5 or 7 6 5—You can lose one trick. Lead small toward the queen. If the jack is played, go up with the queen, otherwise go up with the ace.

A K J 10 3 2 opposite 5 4—Take the first round finesse. Do not play the ace first.

A K J 2 opposite 5 4 3—You want to win three tricks. Lead the ace and king first, then play small from dummy toward the jack.

A 10 3 2 opposite K Q 5 4—Cash the king first, then the queen.

A J 3 2 opposite K 9 5 4—Cash the ace, then lead to the king, finessing the nine if a low card is played by the opponent.

A 10 9 3 2 opposite K 4—To hold to one loser, cash the king, then lead low and go up with the ace.

A 10 9 4 3 2 opposite K 5, or A 10 9 3 2 opposite K 5 4, or A 10 9 2 opposite K 5 4 3—To hold to one loser lead to the king, then a small one to the ten-spot, taking the finesse if the opponent plays low.

Our next lesson hand is scheduled for next Thursday, and I will give you some additional safety plays then to give you a good start in 1948.

Check Your Knowledge

1. How many dozen in a gross?
2. Name the oldest British colony.
3. Name the first American to receive the Nobel Prize in literature.
4. When was the first bicycle invented and by whom?
5. What percent of the known land ore is located in the United States of America?
6. What is the chief food product of the Western Hemisphere?

(Answers on Page 4)

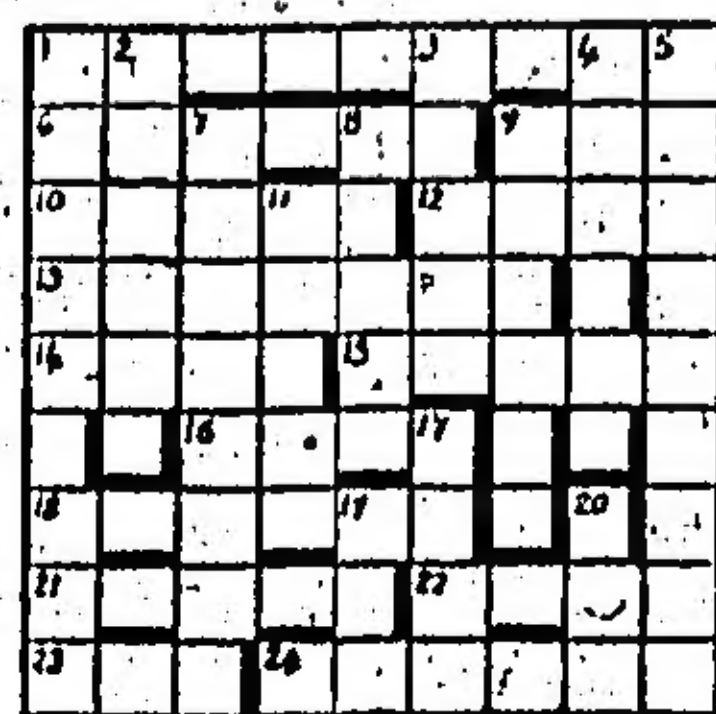
Rupert's Silver Trumpet—29



The Gollwog seizes the silver trumpet and starts at it. "How on earth did you get this?" he asks, "and did you really manage to blow it?" This is Santa Claus's own trumpet, and it's only used to call the guard of toy soldiers together in time of danger. "But it's my Christmas present," insists Rupert. "It arrived on my doorstep wrapped up in a box and brown paper." "I can hardly believe I made such a mistake," whispers Golly. "Show me the box."

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Across
1. Mean. (9)
6. The sort of fur you may find in the snow. (11)
10. Generally follows the bill. (5)
12. An ancient way of travel. (6)
13. For this our American friends make say "two things up." (17)
14. Building water. (4)

Down
1. and 23. Envy a desire (anag.). (10, 5, 3)
2. A word over the fence. (6)
3. Unpleasant. (6)
4. A flea, a fly and a haemorrhoid are said to be its coat-of-arms. (9)
5. Stream of water which drives the mill. (6, 4)
7. At no time. (6)
8. Let him depart; his passport shall be made, And crowns for hire put into his purse. (Shakespeare). (10)
11. Shade of a well-known domino. (6)
15. Possessive pronoun. (5)
20. Place. (5)

SIDE GLANCES

By Galbraith



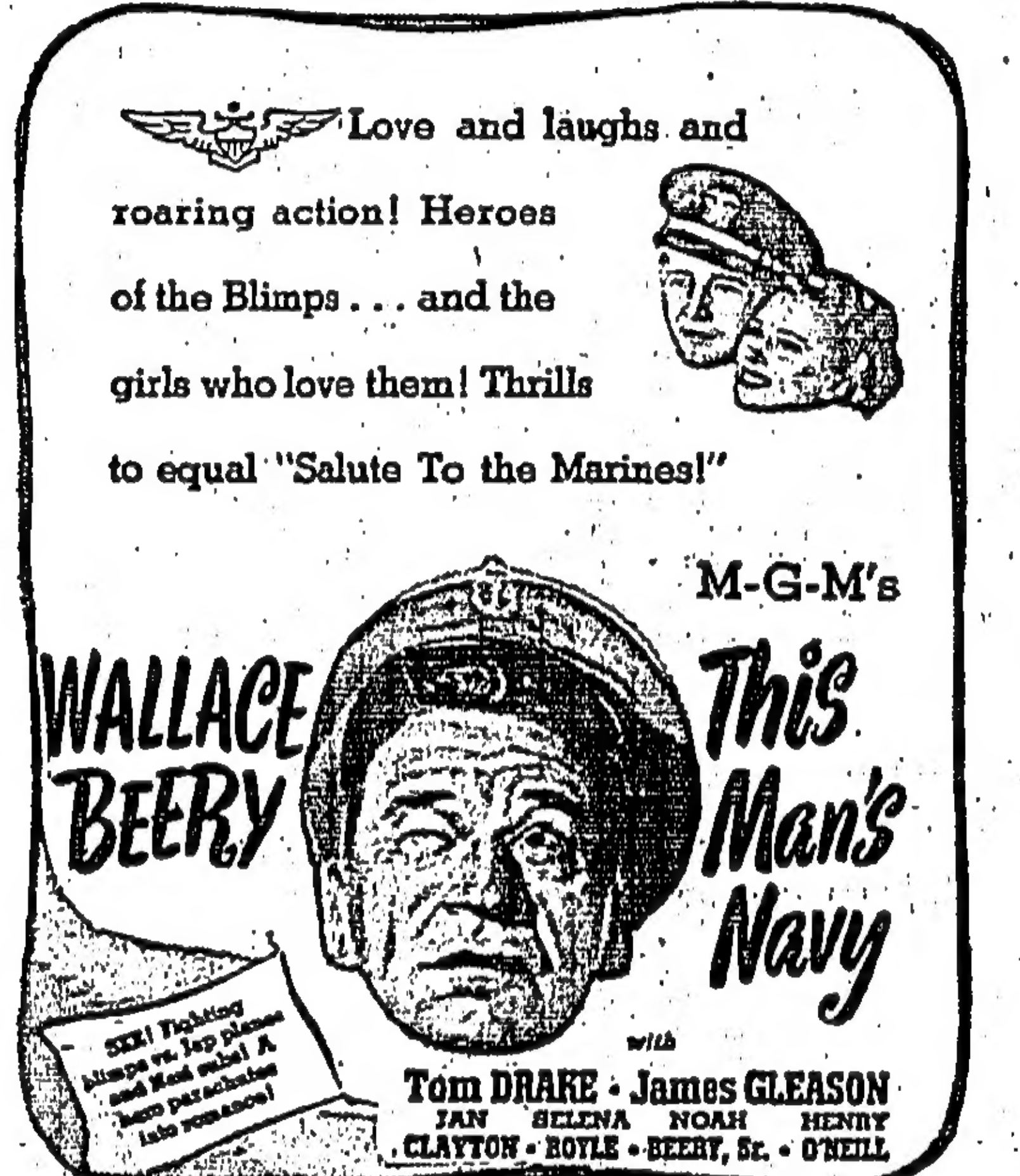
"You're sure lucky—my pop never plays with me!"

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